



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*

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## **KAHO'OLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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### ***E Ola Mau Ke Ea A Kanaloa***

#### **Let the Restoration of Kanaloa Live Forever**

Fourteen years ago on October 22, 1990, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana stopped the bombing of Kaho'olawe. Jets scheduled to make a bombing run of the island were grounded at Mokapu Marine Corps Air Base. A process to heal the island, restore its natural and cultural resources, and return the island to the people of Hawai'i began.

In May, 1994, the U.S. Navy signed over title for the island to the State of Hawai'i and a massive ordnance cleanup of the island continued through November 11, 1993. In April 2004, the U.S. Navy and its contractors finally departed.

This anniversary provides the first occasion to welcome back the early warriors, since the U.S. Navy left. Beginning in 1976, these early members of the 'Ohana carried out a series of occupations of the island that led to arrests and lengthy, expensive court defenses. These early warriors were sentenced to imprisonment, or they were barred from ever returning to Kaho'olawe as long as the U.S. Navy controlled access to the island. In some instances family, friends and community ostracized them. The hardest loss was the tragic disappearance of George Helm and Kimo Mitchell, apparently in the waters surrounding the island, in their effort to stop the bombing.

This gathering also marks the reopening of Kaho'olawe for the training of navigators. According to Native Hawaiian kupuna, traditional chants and mo'olelo, or histories, described Kaho'olawe as a center for the training of navigators in wayfinding. The island was originally named Kanaloa, the name of the Hawaiian god of the ocean. Mastery of the arts of navigation requires a complete spiritual and intellectual immersion into the natural elements of ocean, wind, currents, stars, moon and sun.

One must come to know the nature and characteristics of Kanaloa, the Hawaiian god of these elements, to become a master wayfinder and travel across his magnificent body form, the vast ocean. Kaho‘olawe provides the ideal location to experience Kanaloa and train in wayfinding.

The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission and the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana invited the early warriors to Kaho‘olawe to take part in the reopening of the island as a training center for a new generation of navigators and to acknowledge their courageous efforts and sacrifices that have made this reopening possible.

Grand Master Navigator Mau Pialug of Satawal and the captains and crew members of the seven voyaging canoes of Hawai‘i will help the Commission and the ‘Ohana dedicate an observation platform at Lae o Kealaikahiki (Point of the Pathway to Tahiti) for use as a centerpiece in the education and training of novice navigators from all of the voyaging ‘ohana. Representatives of the original Native Hawaiian families who lived on Kaho'olawe will also participate.

This will be an opportunity to reconnect the early warriors and the voyaging ‘ohana with the island of Kanaloa. To demonstrate the resettlement of Kanaloa by these groups, the participants will plant a grove of niu or coconut trees inland at Honokanai‘a Bay. They will also participate in an annual native planting ceremony at Moa‘ulanui in anticipation of and as an attraction of the first rains of the season.